To: StClair, Christie[StClair.Christie@epa.gov]
From: Hull, George
Sent: Thur 4/14/2016 11:29:47 PM
Subject: FW: Bonita Peak Mining District HRS

FYI – Second of the two responses I sent to the Daily Caller. - George

From: Hull, George
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2016 7:00 PM
To: 'Ethan Barton' <ethan@dailycallernewsfoundation.org>
Cc: Lemon, Mollie <Lemon.Mollie@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Bonita Peak Mining District HRS

Mr. Barton,

Please find below our response to your e-mail of 4:28 pm. Again, if you need to attribute, please attribute to an "EPA Spokesperson." Thanks,

George Hull

Office of Media Relations

U.S. EPA

Tel. 202-564-0790

I also just found this sentence in the document relating to drinking water:

"This contamination threatens not only human food chain fisheries, wetlands and wildlife habitat, including endangered species habitat, but also has the potential to impact downstream drinking water supplies serving thousands of people."

How is the river safe if water supplies for thousands of people are threatened?

Our data has shown no impacts to private drinking water wells. In addition municipal drinking water is treated to ensure it meets drinking water quality criteria prior to delivery to homes.

From: Ethan Barton [mailto:ethan@dailycallernewsfoundation.org]
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2016 4:28 PM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>; Lemon, Mollie <Lemon.Mollie@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Bonita Peak Mining District HRS

I also just found this sentence in the document relating to drinking water:

"This contamination threatens not only human food chain fisheries, wetlands and wildlife habitat, including endangered species habitat, but also has the potential to impact downstream drinking water supplies serving thousands of people."

How is the river safe if water supplies for thousands of people are threatened?

On Thu, Apr 14, 2016 at 2:25 PM, Ethan Barton <ethan@dailycallernewsfoundation.org> wrote:

Here's the link to the HRS document, for your convenience:

https://semspub.epa.gov/work/08/1769520.pdf

On Thu, Apr 14, 2016 at 2:24 PM, Ethan Barton <ethan@dailycallernewsfoundation.org> wrote:

Hello,

I have some questions regarding the Bonita Peak Mining District HRS Documentation Record.

I would like to know why the drinking water threat was not scored. The document shows that ground water migration pathway was not scored because of the low population density and because there are "no municipal wells located within the four mile radius that serve as potable supplies."

However, Silverton, Colorado, Farmington, New Mexico, and the Navajo Nation have all had their water supplies affected by the Gold King Mine release, which suggests water supplies are, in fact, impacted by the Bonita Peak Mining District.

Additionally, both the human food chain and the environmental threats scored the max values. How is it that the EPA claims the river is safe for humans and that drinking water is not affected, yet the human food chain is heavily threatened?

Given the threat to the human food chain, have residents who live in the area who consume wildlife, such as fishers in Silverton, Colorado, been warned of this threat and been given guidance?

In sum:

1. Why was drinking water not assessed in the HRS, given the details provided?

2. How can the human food chain be so heavily threatened, but the drinking water, as well as the Animas River, is safe for humans?

3. Has the EPA warned local residents and provided guidance on the threat to the human food chain?

My deadline is end of business today.

Thanks,

Ethan

Ethan Barton

Investigative Reporter

Daily Caller News Foundation

410-829-1738

@ethanrbarton

--

Ethan Barton

Investigative Reporter

Daily Caller News Foundation

410-829-1738

@ethanrbarton

--

Ethan Barton

Investigative Reporter

Daily Caller News Foundation

410-829-1738

@ethanrbarton